

Ornithidium Alfaro A. & S. *sp. nov.* Rhizoma repens, arcuatum, bracteis distichis dense imbricantibus omnino vestitum. Pseudobulbi adscendentes cylindranei vel suborbiculares, valde complanati, monophylli. Folium ovato-ellipticum vel oblongum, in apice rotundatum. Flores parvi. Sepala lateralia usque supra medium connata. Sepalum dorsale elliptico-oblongum. Petala sepalo dorsali persimilia sed minora. Labellum sepalorum sacco inclusum, trilobatum, callo transverso ornatum.

Plant creeping. Rhizome stout, arcuate or flexuous, densely invested by distichous imbricating sheaths, 3–5 mm. in diameter when naked, up to 1 cm. across when concealed by sheaths. Pseudobulbs monophyllous, complanate, cylindric to suborbicular, 1.5–4.5 cm. high, 1.3–1.9 cm. across, striate-sulcate or rugose in the dried specimen, 1–4 cm. apart on the rhizome, the lower part invested by sheaths which waste into fibers in anthesis. Leaf ovate-elliptic to oblong or ligulate; lamina 4.05–17.5 cm. long, 1.7–2.55 cm. wide in the middle, rounded and minutely apiculate at the apex, abruptly narrowed at the base, chartaceous or subcoriaceous, mid-nerve sulcate above and carinate beneath; petiole (if present) up to 1 cm. long, channeled-conduplicate. Inflorescences short, clustered in the axils of bracts on the rhizome. Peduncle abbreviated, about 2 mm. long, entirely concealed by several sheaths which are inflated, distichous and imbricating. Flowers small. Lateral sepals connate to a point beyond the middle forming a short saccate spur at the base, 9–9.5 mm. long; free portions obliquely ovate, acute or somewhat obtuse, up to 3.7 mm. long, inner margins overlapping. Dorsal sepal elliptic-oblong, 8 mm. long, 3 mm. wide in the middle, acute. Petals very similar to the dorsal sepal but markedly smaller, 6.4 mm. long. Labellum enveloped by the sepaline sac, erect in natural position making an acute angle with the column foot, when expanded broadly ovate in outline, distinctly 3-lobed two-thirds the distance from the base, 5.1 mm. long, about 4 mm. wide; lateral lobes semiobovate, broadly rounded above; middle lobe triangular-ovate, 1.5–1.7 mm. long and equally wide at the base, obtuse, apical portion somewhat carinate-thickened beneath. Disc with a transverse oblong fleshy retuse callus extending across the base of the middle lobe. Column short, stout, 2 mm. long, a subequally long foot extending at an obtuse angle. Ovary prominently several-winged.

Ornithidium Alfaro is closely allied to *O. anceps* Reichb. f., but differs in its larger growth, broader obtuse leaves, deeply connate lateral sepals with overlapping free portions and relatively short lip.

The description was drawn from dried specimens, while the floral measurements were taken only from the better preserved flowers of the type collection.

COSTA RICA, La Fuente, A. Alfaro 227, December 8, 1925. 1200 meters altitude. "Sepals and petals white, lip orange yellow." (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 30960): Province of San José, oak forest near Quebradillas, about 7 km. north of Santa Maria de Dota, Paul C. Standley 43054, December 24, 1925. About 1800 meters altitude. "On tree." (Flowers very passé): Province of San José, Vicinity of El Copey, Standley & Juvenal Valerio 43996, December 26, 1925–January 3, 1926. 1700 meters altitude. "On tree."